similar nature. Action on specific cases of violation of the provisions of these Acts are to be taken by the appropriate Governments as rovided in the resective Acts.

Crisis in Electronic Arc-furnace industry

1268. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the electronic arc-furance industry is facing an acute shortage of raw-materials; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to ensure supply of raw material including imported scrap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) Steel Melting Scrap the only raw material used by electric are furnace units, which is in short supply indigenously. Adequate quantities of imported steel melting scraps are being made available to ensure that this industry does not face raw material shortage.

Pace of tribal development programmes

1269. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pace of tribal development programmes in several States and Union Territories is very slow; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to safeguard the interests of the tribals and to ensure their economic upliftment?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) While there has been good progress in implementation of tribal development programmes in the country, a lot more remains to be done.

(b) The programmes for tribal development in the States are reviewed periodically and the State Governments advised to take appropriate corrective action so as to ensure that the benefits of the development schemes reached the tribals. The flow of funds from the State Plan to Tribal sub-Plan as well as the quantum of Special Central Assistance released for tribal development have increased ever the years. A part of Special Central Assistance is also specifically allotted for compact area programme and for schemes benefiting primitive tribes and other vulnerable groups among tribals.

Study team for real causes behind the decreasing returns

1270. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in comparison to other Government Departments, e.g. Railways, Defence, Posts, the productivity level, based on PLB of the Government of India Presses is going down year after years;

(b) whether Government propose to appoint a study team to find out the real causes behid the decreasing return; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The assessment of productivity of Government of India Presses during a particular year for the purpose of PLB made comparing it with the base year. It is a fact that in the Government of India Presses, productivity has been lesser than the base year 1976-77 during the years for which PLB has been paid to workers.

(b) and (c) A study team has already studied the working of the Government of India Presses and has suggested measures like better maintenance of machines, training of the operatives, timely and adequate supply of paper etc. to improve productivity. Steps have been taken/are being taken to improve productivity of the presses.